# DEFINING VARIABLES USED IN A MULTI-LINGUAL INTERNET PRESENTATION

#### 3 TECHNICAL FIELD

- 4 The present invention relates to Internet conferences and
- 5 presentations. More particularly it relates to defining
- 6 variables used in a multi-lingual Internet presentation
- 7 system.

#### 8 BACKGROUND

- 9 Today, audiences including thousands of participants in the
- 10 world can attend conferences and presentations broadcast by
- 11 the Internet network. During such a presentation, the
- 12 participant can view visual objects such as charts, slides,
- images, graphics (generally in PowerPoint) and listen to
- 14 prerecorded audio recordings associated with each visual
- object.
- 16 In general, the speaker who is in charge of adding audio
- 17 comments to the visual object, does not assemble the final
- deliverable contents but could, via access to the Internet
- 19 web pages, invoke the assembly process. The assembly is
- 20 normally done by a third party who has the skills in
- 21 creating the synchronized objects or an automatic system.

- 1 But there are many problems associated with creating a
- 2 presentation having a synchronized audio recording to the
- yisual objects. Thus, the speaker should have a ready access
- 4 to equipment like a recording machine, a microphone or a PC
- 5 with audio support to create the recording. An alternative
- 6 is to go to a recording studio and to use facilities there,
- 7 but this is not always immediately available and it is an
- 8 expensive solution. If the user chooses to use a tape
- 9 recorder, the third party which receives this media should
- 10 have similar equipment available to replay the recording.
- 11 But, from its initial creation stage to its final published
- 12 form, there can be many variants of the web deliverable
- 13 presentation that end users view. During the initial stages
- of creation, there may be no audio available, so a set of
- web pages needs to be created so that the content creator
- 16 can view the slides in a web format to proof read the
- 17 contents. At some later stage, there may be added audio
- 18 which uses generating another set of web pages which is
- 19 different from the first one since it now includes audio.
- 20 If different types of audio streaming support are allowed,
- 21 this again changes the format of the web pages and the
- number of web pages that have to be created.
- 23 Also, creators have differing requirements and as technology
- changes, and there may be other variables added. These
- variables can be the language of the audio, the different
- 26 sizes of graphics, a survey, the presenter name, a title, a
- 27 biography, an index of the slides, etc.

- All these permutations consume large amounts of time in
- 2 creating for each presentation its own unique set of HTML
- 3 pages. Also, a simple change like an increase in the number
- 4 of slides requires considerable rework. For example, "the
- 5 export as HTML pages" function in a Freelance Graphic
- 6 presentation will create 92 HTML pages for a 30 slide
- 7 presentation. For Power Point, the similar function will
- 8 create 72 HTML pages. Furthermore, these pages have only the
- 9 basic navigation feature and do not include the required
- 10 HTML functions for streaming audio.

#### 11 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 12 Accordingly, an aspect of the invention is to achieve a
- method of defining previously all the variables to be used
- in a multi-lingual presentation without requiring HTML pages
- 15 for each presentation for which different variables are
- 16 used.
- 17 The invention provides therefore methods, apparatus and
- 18 systems for defining variables to be used in a multi-lingual
- 19 presentation system accessed by the Internet network wherein
- 20 a plurality of visual objects such as charts or slides
- controlled by a third party in a server can be accessed by
- 22 any user of the Internet network having a workstation. The
- visual objects are each associated with an audio recording
- in a language selected amongst several predetermined
- 25 languages. This method includes in creating a control file
- 26 including all the variables defining all the parameters of a
- 27 presentation requested by a user of the Internet network,

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- the variables being defined in the control file previously
- 2 to the presentation.

### 3 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 4 The above and other aspects, features and advantages of the
- 5 invention will be better understood by reading the following
- 6 more particular description of the invention in conjunction
- 7 with the accompanying drawings wherein:
- 8 Fig. 1 is a block-diagram representing the general
- 9 context wherein the invention is implemented;
- 10 Fig. 2 is a block-diagram representing the third party
- 11 server with the files that are transferred to the user
- 12 workstation via the Internet network; and
- 13 Fig. 3 represents a flow chart of the various steps used
- 14 by the methods according to the invention when a user
- gets access to the third party server.

## 16 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- 17 Referring to Fig. 1, showing an embodiment which assumes
- 18 that a third party responsible for a presentation system has
- 19 already generated charts or slides to be presented to the
- users connected by their workstations 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, to
- 21 the Internet network 12. The author (or a speaker) has then
- 22 to record audio files each being associated with each chart

- or slide. The author has at his disposal a workstation 14
- 2 connected to the Internet network 12 and a telephone set 16
- 3 connected to the Public Switched Network (PSN) 18.
- 4 The author of the presentation is provided with an
- 5 identification number ID, a password and a telephone number
- 6 (via web pages, e-mail or conversation with the third
- 7 party). When he wants to record the audio recordings, he
- 8 calls the third party server 20. At this time, the speaker
- 9 is prompted to enter his ID by means of workstation 14.
- 10 The ID entered by the author determines the language to be
- used, the naming convention for the file and the location
- for the recordings. In general, the third party stores the
- objects and the corresponding audio files in the same
- 14 location as that specified by the ID in a content directory.
- 15 Thus, for example, the ID may include the number 6666 that
- 16 is the directory name in which the final recordings are to
- 17 be stored.
- 18 During creation of the charts or slides with synchronized
- 19 audio, the author is asked several questions regarding the
- 20 presentation. According to the main feature of the
- 21 invention, this information is stored in a control file,
- 22 preferably a javascript file which can be named "INI.JS" for
- 23 example, and includes the title of the presentation, the
- 24 number of slides, the duration of the presentation, the
- language used, the date of last update, the first slide, the
- 26 abstract, the biography ...; that is all the variables used
- 27 by the supporting HTML which are then accessed by any user
- 28 of the presentation.

- An example of code included in the control file with an 1
- explanation of the function in italics is given hereafter : 2

Code	Description
AudioStatus="rec"	audio has been recorded, so enabl
	the audio streaming option.
BambaJava="yes";	provide the option of Bamba for
	Java audio streaming
<pre>BambaPlugin="yes";</pre>	provide the option of Bamba Plugi
	audio streaming
commonDir="/common_v2_0/";	the location where the html pages
	are located
cutPoints="6,12,18,24,30,36";	the slide numbers for the start of
	a new part (chapter)
Duration="51";	the time/duration of the audio (
	minutes)
ExternalPres="no";	change the look and feel, plus
	colours to that of the Internet
	Server if 'yes'
FoilExtension="jpg";	the file extension name of the
Jr y	slide.
FoilName="slide";	the name prefix of the slide (in
	this example, slides will be nam
	slide1.jpg, slide2.jpg, etc)
Hal="no";	Do not provide the option of
	HotAudio audio streaming
	the location of the codebase fil
JbCodebase="/JavaBamba/";	
	required for Bamba for Java audi
	streaming
<pre>language[1] = "ENG, English";</pre>	The language of the audio file a

	hence the language that should be
	used for the navigation controls
lastUpdate="23/05/00 17:29:05"	Date and time when the
	presentation was last modified
multipleResolutions="yes";	Provide the option of large or
	small graphics.
presAbstract="A summary of the	Abstract for this presentation.
business to business opportunity	
with e-commerce. Outlines the	
opportunity, challenges, and the	
strategy for addressing this	
opportunity.";	
Email="heasmanb@be.ibm.com"; (if	Email address of the presenter
it has to be a real address then	
make it mine.	
presName="Big Really BIG -	Name of this presentation
The Business to Business	
Opportunity";	
questionURL="noquestion"	Does the presentation have a
	feedback feature (send questions
	to the presenter)?
showIcons="yes";	Show icons or text-only links?
speakerBio=" Brian: has almost 15	Biography of the presenter
years experience with IBM, and has	
been in e-business marketing since	
its inception at IBM.	
speakerName="Brian";	Name of the presenter
SurveyURL="nosurvey";	Does the presentation have a
	feedback feature (complete a
	survey)?
TotalSlides=42	Number of slides in this
	presentation.
ReturnURL[1]="Online Library",	Label and URL for a link
http://Our_server.ibm.com/";	

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- 1 As shown in Fig. 2, the third party server 20 includes the
- 2 content directory 22 which contains control file 24. The
- 3 content directory also contains the graphic and audio files
- 4 (not shown) and two generic files INDEX.HTML 26 and
- 5 CONTAINER.HTML 28. But other generic files are contained in
- 6 a common directory 30. Such generic files are INDEX.JS 32
- 7 and CONTAINER.JS 34 if they are javascript files.
- 8 Note that a reason the two generic HTML files are in the
- 9 content directory 22 is that the user can link to them via a
- 10 web browser. Other than loading the control file and
- 11 specific files in the common directory, there is no
- 12 functionality in these files. The real functionality is in
- 13 the files within the common directory.
- 14 When an end user wants to have the presentation in the user
- 15 workstation 10, the steps to be used are illustrated by the
- 16 flow chart represented in Fig. 3. First, the user accesses
- 17 INDEX.HTML (step 40) which is the introductory page
- describing the presentation and the speaker. Such an
- 19 introductory page includes an example any combination of
- 20 items in the following information:
- 21 Title of Presentation
- 22 Presenters Name
- 23 Number of Slides
- 24 Duration of the audio
- 25 Language/languages
- 26 Abstract of Presentation
- 27 Biography of Presenter
- 28 Picture of Presenter
- 29 Choice of large or small graphics

- Which part (Chapter) they wish to start with.
- 2 Audio Steaming Options with or without icons.
- 3 In accessing INDEX.HTML, the control file (INI.JS) is
- 4 automatically downloaded in the user workstation as well as
- 5 INDEX.JS that is within common directory 30 in order to
- 6 build the index page (step 42). The file INDEX.JS includes
- 7 the real functionality needed to build the index page. The
- 8 variables in the control file are then used to:
- 9 1. Complete INDEX.JS
- e.g. to display the title of presentation, INDEX.JS
- includes the following line of code:
- Document.write('<H3>'4+presName+'</H3<')
- The presName variable from the control file is then
- 14 used to complete this line of code with the title of
- 15 the presentation.
- 16 2. Allow/disallow access to certain functions/features
- e.g. the index.JS has the possibility to let the user
- 18 start the presentation using different streaming
- 19 technologies. All options are not necessarily shown,
- 20 only those that are listed in the control file.
- Once the index page is downloaded, the user can read the
- details on the presentation and the speaker and make certain
- 23 choices in regard to the presentation he is about to start
- 24 (step 44). These choices include the language being used,
- 25 the size of foil graphics, the part number at which to start
- 26 the presentation and the technology in which to listen to
- 27 the audio.

- 1 Once the user has indicated he wants to start the
- 2 presentation using certain options, the file CONTAINER.HTML
- 3 is sent in the browser for the userworkstation. User choices
- 4 are passed (step 46) by adding them in the URL (hash
- 5 statement).
- 6 Then, the access to CONTAINER.HTML automatically loads the
- 7 control file INI.JS and the file CONTAINER.JS that is within
- 8 common directory 30. Similar to step 42, the control file is
- 9 used to build CONTAINER.JS and allow/disallow functions and
- 10 features (steps 48). The users choices that were passed in
- the URL are also used for this purpose. As an example, the
- 12 control file can define the presentation as being divided in
- three parts: charts 1-5, charts 6-10 and charts 11-15. As a
- 14 result the index page will offer the user the option to
- 15 select at which part he wants to start the presentation
- 16 (e.g. part 2). His choice is then passed in the URL to
- 17 CONTAINER.HTML. The latter file looks at the control file to
- determine which charts are included in part 2 and displays
- 19 only those charts.
- Once the container page is completely built, the user will
- 21 have access to certain functions as defined in the control
- file (step 50). Some of these functions will in return load
- 23 HTML and/or JS files that are in common directory 30. As
- 24 these files are loaded within a specific frameset, they can
- 25 access the variables in the control file by reading them
- from COINTAINER.JS which is its parent. As an example, in
- 27 the control file, the variable AskaQuestion is set to "yes".
- 28 This results in the container displaying a button that the
- user can press to bring up "Question.HTML", which is a file

- 1 in the common directory. This file will then read certain
- variables from the control file, such as e-mail address, and
- 3 use this information to customize the otherwise generic
- 4 Ouestion.HTML file.
- 5 thus in an embodiment of the present invention is a method,
- 6 apparatus and/or system to store the complementary
- 7 information (basic information being the slides and
- 8 associated audio recordings) in a control file, so that a
- 9 very limited number of specially written HTML pages can use
- the variables within this file to provide the end result. By
- 11 using this approach, the work associated with creating a
- 12 presentation or the end viewed result is all included in
- this file as variables. Only one HTML Page per audio
- 14 streaming type is used with the information needed for this
- page being stored as variables in the control file. Note
- also that the same HTML pages can be used for all
- 17 presentations, the control file being the only file which is
- 18 different.
- 19 Again, there is one HTML page which performs the function of
- 20 the introductory page. This page gives an overview of what
- 21 the presentation includes. On selecting an audio streaming
- option, the user enters a second page. There is one HTML
- 23 page for every audio streaming option. For each additional
- function like Help, Survey, Ask a question, etc. there is a
- 25 single HTML page per language being used. On inputting the
- second page, the user sees the graphics and will hear the
- 27 first audio recording. Depending on the definition of the
- 28 variables in the control file, the user will see a series of
- 29 buttons for Help, Survey, et. Note that, since all the

- 1 features and functions are stored in the control file, it is
- 2 possible to make for example the Help function become an
- 3 intelligent Help screen. Since the Help HTML Page can be
- 4 made to read the control file, it can predetermine what the
- 5 user has as options and only provide Help for the options
- 6 visible.
- 7 The present invention can be realized in hardware, software,
- 8 or a combination of hardware and software. A visualization
- 9 tool according to the present invention can be realized in a
- 10 centralized fashion in one computer system, or in a
- distributed fashion where different elements are spread
- 12 across several interconnected computer systems. Any kind of
- computer system or other apparatus adapted for carrying
- 14 out the methods and/or functions described herein is
- 15 suitable. A typical combination of hardware and software
- 16 could be a general purpose computer system with a computer
- 17 program that, when being loaded and executed, controls the
- 18 computer system such that it carries out the methods
- 19 described herein. The present invention can also be
- 20 embedded in a computer program product, which comprises all
- 21 the features enabling the implementation of the methods
- described herein, and which when loaded in a computer
- 23 system is able to carry out these methods.
- 24 Computer program means or computer program in the present
- 25 context include any expression, in any language, code or
- 26 notation, of a set of instructions intended to cause a
- 27 system having an information processing capability to
- 28 perform a particular function either directly or after

- 1 conversion to another language, code or notation, and/or
- 2 reproduction in a different material form.
- 3 Thus the invention includes an article of manufacture which
- 4 comprises a computer usable medium having computer readable
- 5 program code means embodied therein for causing a function
- 6 described above. The computer readable program code means
- 7 in the article of manufacture comprises computer readable
- 8 program code means for causing a computer to effect the
- 9 steps of a method of this invention. Similarly, the present
- invention may be implemented as a computer program product
- 11 comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable
- 12 program code means embodied therein for causing a a function
- described above. The computer readable program code means
- in the computer program product comprising computer readable
- 15 program code means for causing a computer to effect one or
- 16 more functions of this invention. Furthermore, the present
- invention may be implemented as a program storage device
- readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of
- 19 instructions executable by the machine to perform method
- 20 steps for causing one or more functions of this invention.
- 21 It is noted that the foregoing has outlined some of the more
- 22 pertinent objects and embodiments of the present invention.
- 23 This invention may be used for many applications. Thus,
- 24 although the description is made for particular arrangements
- and methods, the intent and concept of the invention is
- 26 suitable and applicable to other arrangements and
- 27 applications. It will be clear to those skilled in the art
- 28 that modifications to the disclosed embodiments can be

- 1 effected without departing from the spirit and scope of the
- 2 invention.
- 3 The described embodiments ought to be construed to be merely
- 4 illustrative of some of the more prominent features and
- 5 applications of the invention. Other beneficial results can
- 6 be realized by applying the disclosed invention in a
- 7 different manner or modifying the invention in ways known to
- 8 those familiar with the art.